

25th JUNE 2014

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Networking Event: Freshwater Habitats

Alpine Biogeographical Region



Title:	Alpine Freshwater Habitats – River Restoration
Dates:	3 to 4 September 2014 (<i>Note that travel may be required on 2 and 5 Sept</i>)
Cooperating Hosts:	Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, the Water Research Institute and Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise
Country:	Slovakia
Location:	Zvolen, Central Slovakia
Venue:	Hotel Tennis , http://www.hoteltenis.sk/en Neresnická cesta 13, Zvolen
Links:	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm www.cwi.sk www.enviro.gov.sk

Background

This event is organised to advance conclusions from the first Alpine Biogeographical Seminar, held in Graz (November 2013) and in conjunction with the 2014 Work Plan of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI). It provides an important opportunity to discuss ongoing activities of the European Commission and highly relevant activities of the Ramsar Convention (in the frame of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative - the official regional initiative of the Ramsar Convention coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic) and other regional conventions (Danube River Protection Convention, Carpathian Convention).

This event is prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, the Water Research Institute and Slovak Water Management Enterprise.

The purpose of the workshop is to increase awareness and to stimulate collaborative action to address the main threats and pressures to Alpine freshwater habitats. Such threats and pressures are also relevant for the countries beyond this biogeographic region and the borders of the EU. There will be discussion about application of the EU guidance on “hydropower plants and Natura 2000”, implementation of EU Directives (Water framework, Birds & Habitats Directives), comparison of reporting duties and results, and sharing of experience within the biogeographic region and between the EU and non-EU countries participating.

Workshop Content

Alpine freshwater habitats

- Main threats and pressures influencing their favourable conservation status
- Restoration potential and possibilities
- Relevant policy context and guidance – for example, management responsibilities in implementing the Water Framework and Nature Directives, draft guidance on hydropower plants and other barriers effecting the river continuum, gravel excavation, river modification, etc.

Target Audience

This networking event is aimed at experts from EU member states from the Alpine biogeographical region, as well as other Carpathian states – both EU and non-EU (e.g. Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine and Serbia), the European Commission and cooperating institutions (such as ECNC, ICDPR, Ramsar Convention and Carpathian Convention). A maximum of 60 participants are expected (from 16 Member States, neighbouring Carpathian states, expert NGO organisations and the above mentioned institutions).

Expected results

The main aim of the workshop will be to promote collaborative action at the Alpine biogeographical level and the Carpathian region level, in order to help achieve favourable conservation status for river habitats and species, and to share good examples and best practices.

CWI Board Meeting

All CWI national focal points and partners will be invited to participate in the workshop, as well as in the meeting of the CWI Board members planned for the evening of 4th September 2014. This meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss follow up and future activities to be planned for 2015, as well as presentation of the CWI at related forthcoming events (Forum Carpathicum 2014 in Lviv, Ukraine, from 16th to 18th September; Carpathian Convention COP4 in Mikulov, Czech Republic, from 23rd to 26th September; European Regional Ramsar Meeting in Kufstein, Austria, from 20th to 24th October, etc.).

Indicative Outline Programme

Day 0: 2nd September – Arrivals

Day 1: 3rd September

09.00 to 10.00	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official welcome & opening speeches• Overview of Programme• Introduction to site visits
10.00 to 10.30	Coffee and prepare to depart for site visits
10.30 to 18.30	Excursion to the Hron/Slatina River catchments (tributary of the Danube)
18.30 to 20.30	Knowledge market

Day 2: 4th September

09.00 to 10.30	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Day 2
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http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on EU directives (Water framework and Nature directives, reporting requirements); • Presentation of relevant guidelines • Carpathian Wetlands Initiative – case study/studies • Re-cap on Day 1
10.30 to 11.00	Coffee
11.00 to 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Biogeographical Region - 3 Case studies (ideally “regional” – on river basin or cross-border) • Questions & plenary discussion
12.30 to 14.00	Lunch & networking
14.00 to 15.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Biogeographic Region - 3 Case studies (ideally “regional” – on river basin or cross-border)
15.30 to 16.00	Coffee
16.00 to 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions and recommendations

Subject to delegates’ travel schedules, there may be an additional informal event in the evening.

Day 3: 5th September - Departure of participants

Excursions:

There are 2 parallel excursions planned. For both, transport by bus will be organized (individuals travelling by car may prefer to use their own vehicle) and guided tour provided, both for nature and water management issues.

1st excursion will be to the Slatina River, the Hriňová Water Dam and to the historical (former mining town) Banská Štiavnica with unique system of “tajchy”, the Pstruša Nature Reserve will be visited, too.



2nd excursion will follow the Hron River from its spring and meanders and valuable riverbed (all being protected areas) to the historically important set of water dams Dolný Harmanec, as well as Jelenec and Motyčky and migration barrier at Hronská Dúbrava.



Costs

There is no fee to attend this workshop. However, delegates are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs, as well as personal expenses. Some limited funds are available from the CWI budget for support for travel, meals and/or accommodation for representatives of the Carpathian countries. In addition, for some other delegates funds for travel and/or accommodation costs may be available from the EC's contractor in support of this event. Should you require such support to help your attendance and participation in this workshop, please send an email requesting that to tereza.thompson@sopsr.sk (from Carpathian countries) or Natura2000Platform@ecnc.org (from EU countries) when registering your interest to attend the workshop.

Knowledge Market - Posters & Exhibitions

This interactive session is designed to stimulate discussion between workshop participants, share and gather information, and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaboration and co-operation. The "Knowledge Market" offers the possibility for delegates to present best practice examples from nature protection activities with a specific focus on Natura 2000 (management plans; LIFE and other projects; stakeholder integration activities).

Interest to display posters, maps and to disseminate guidance, information resources or other literature should be **expressed by July 18th, 2014 (along with the registration)**. Participants are requested in advance to provide information materials - posters and information.

Registration

Delegates are encouraged to register their interest to attend this workshop as soon as possible. Also, should you wish to contribute a case study or present a relevant project during the programme, please let us know and provide some summary and details. In all cases, the deadline for registration is 18 July 2014.

Registration is via email to: Natura2000Platform@ecnc.org

***TO HELP, PLEASE QUOTE: "ALPINE RIVER REVITALISATION WORKSHOP"
IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL.***